

# Alianza Academy Report to the State Charter School Board

December 12, 2013

## Mission of the School

The mission of Alianza Academy is to offer K-8 instruction with a strong commitment to academic achievement, character development, and leadership training. Its school model rests on four cornerstones: 1) personalized academic instruction using virtual and hybrid curriculum, 2) all-day mentoring of students focused on academic achievement and developmental needs by trained learning coaches, 3) creativity inquiry learning in partnership with Lincoln Center and local non-profit arts, service, and adventure organizations to develop the imaginative and critical capacities of children, and 4) academic and college readiness.

## Demographics for 2013-14

- 440 Students, K-8
- Three Learning Center Locations: Magna, West Valley City, and South Salt Lake City
- Minority: 40%
- Low Income: 58%
- Special Education: 13%
- ELL: 3%

## School Data Points and Action Plans

<i>Data Points</i>	<i>Alianza Action Plan/Needed Resources</i>
Academic Proficiency: 168 (Median is 248)  Academic Growth: 106 (Median is 196)	<b>Accelerating and measuring progress:</b> Data shows most children arrive at Alianza 1.5-2 years below grade-level proficiency and on a path to 66% academic growth. NWEA testing reveals better than (national) average progress (Alianza Progress: 105% Reading, 114% Language, 147% Math, 251% Science). Diebels results for 2012-13 show that Alianza students starting the year below proficient attained proficiency by the end of year at 49% (state average: 36%). Total Alianza students proficient by end of year: 72% (state average 70%). At these rates 5 years of academic progress will occur in 4 calendar years, rather than the 7.2 calendar years which is the national statistical norm for students from this demographic. <b>Next-generation professional development:</b> The quality of learning coach or teacher has a strong statistical impact on the acceleration of individual student learning, according to our analysis of data—information which has been used by Alianza in a data-feedback loop initiated since our meeting with the State Charter School Board in November 2012. In addition Alianza will continue and extend efforts on the following initiatives:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Formative Data Informs In-Service Training:</b> In 6 weeks, Alianza will launch a second round of NWEA testing for the year, revealing key areas in which to target efforts. Professional development hours in January and February will be dedicated to analyzing data, determining an action plan, and training faculty in its implementation for remedial action.</li> <li>• <b>Alianza SummerBridge:</b> For the past two summers, Alianza has brought together school leaders, teaching staff, and often students for training and pre-service practice. This year's version of SummerBridge will include training in inquiry learning from the Lincoln Center Institute, workshops led by our own team of school leaders, and practice with actual students as they work with online-learning activities and inquiry projects. These activities are privately funded.</li> <li>• <b>Enhance Mentorship On-the-Job:</b> We build cohorts and professional teams led by mentoring teachers who can offer deeper support to early practice teachers. Our data shows that our early practice teachers can be highly effective with such mentorship, leading to the wider establishment of best practices. Data from the past two years already reveals exceptional progress in areas where such a team has coalesced, and our aim is to expand and professionalize such practices across the system.</li> </ul>
<p>Student Retention 62.5% (Median is 83%)</p> <p>Transfer: 14.2% (Median is 6.7%)</p> <p>Average Daily Membership: 94.5% (Median is 98%)</p>	<p><b>Year to Year Enrollment:</b> Alianza Academy will institute a position of Admissions Director whose job is to improve retention and provide education regarding the strengths of our program to prospective parents, prior to the beginning of the academic year. Many parents and students arrive unaware of the hybrid academic program despite our best efforts to provide training and information. Open Houses and tours are scheduled for January - June, 2014. In the future we will track the following statistics on a voluntary basis, consistent with state law: Percent who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• relocate housing:</li> <li>• move from one parent/guardian to another:</li> <li>• cannot provide transportation:</li> <li>• conclude hybrid academic program does not serve student needs</li> <li>• provide no reason:</li> <li>• leave because there is no 9-12 program:</li> <li>• dislike classroom, learning coach experience:</li> <li>• answer other:</li> </ul> <p><b>ADM:</b> Our ADM for 2012-13 was higher than the previous year, and we will work to see that trend continues.</p>